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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000356

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SRAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [MARR](#) [PTER](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: SRAP HOLBROOKE'S JUNE 6 MEETING WITH BAHRAIN'S
FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: SECRETARY 13

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: SRAP Holbrooke obtained from Bahrain's foreign minister a pledge to contribute to Pakistan IDP relief and reconstruction efforts; Bahrain's cabinet would announce the amount soon. Holbrooke expressed appreciation for King Hamad's offer to Secretary Clinton of a company of Bahraini special security forces for Afghanistan service, and said an official U.S. response to the offer would come soon. End summary.

¶2. (C) SRAP Holbrooke met June 6 with Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid at the MFA in Manama. Ambassador Holbrooke said there are now more than 2.5 million IDPs in Pakistan and that instability there threatens the international community. He added that the U.S. has pledged approximately USD 350 million to help the GOP deal with IDPs and said President Obama was concerned by the so-far limited response of the GCC states. Sheikh Khalid responded that Bahrain had only just gotten a request for help from the OP on June 5 (after the USG initiated its own request for Pakistani IDPs). Now that Pakistan has communicated its needs - specifically, the purchase of food for IDPs from local markets - King Hamad had ordered the GOB to contribute to the relief effort. The Cabinet will agree on a sum and announce the contribution "soon."

¶3. (C) Following a discussion of the Taliban's sources of support, Shaikh Khalid briefed Ambassador Holbrooke on Bahrain's plans, in consultation with the U.S. Treasury department, to host an international conference to create a framework that regulates donations to Islamic charities by private citizens in Gulf states. Sheikh Khalid assessed that both the Saudis and Emiratis understand that it is in their interest to track and squeeze flows of funding to the Taliban.

¶4. (C) SRAP Holbrooke described increased U.S. focus on countering Taliban propaganda and full-scale investment in agricultural initiatives that would create jobs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The FM suggested using media outlets to dissuade Gulf citizens from making contributions to the insurgency. Specifically, he suggested that regional satellite channels within the Gulf produce documentary programming exposing the Taliban's connections to the drug trade and the terror inflicted on everyday Muslims by the Taliban and Al Qaeda. "They are no different than Pablo Escobar. It is important to expose the Taliban as the real infidels," he said.

¶5. (C) Sheikh Khalid noted King Hamad's offer to Secretary Clinton to deploy a company of Ministry of Interior Special Security Forces police in support of coalition operations in

Afghanistan (reftel). SRAP Holbrooke expressed deep appreciation for Bahrain's offer and committed to getting an official USG response soon.

16. (U) Participants:

United States:

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for
Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP)
Charg d'Affaires Christopher Henzel
Major General Burton Field, SRAP Military Adviser
Rosemarie Pauli, SRAP Chief of Staff
Anish Goel, NSC Director for South Asia
Kim McClure, SRAP Special Assistant
Steven Butler, Embassy Manama (notetaker)

Bahrain:

Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister
Ambassador Saeed Faihani, Adviser to the Foreign Minister
Ambassador Dhafer Al Umran, MFA Bilateral Relations Director
Ambassador Wahid Sayyar
Abdullah Sha'alan, Director of the Office of the Foreign
Minister
Abdullah Al Khalifa, MFA Americas Desk (notetaker)

17. (U) SRAP Holbrooke has cleared this message.

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MANAMA 00000356 002 OF 002

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